

Guiding Idaho Committee House Idaho Collaborative Board

Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 20, 2025, 9-11am MDT

Chair	Brady Ellis, Idaho Housing and Finance Association
Vice Chair	Vacant
Secretary	Heidi Sellick-Diaz, Idaho Housing and Finance Association
Voting Members Present	Scott Ferguson, Region 1 proxy Autumn Shafer, Region 2 Betsy Bowling, Region 3 John Stennett, Region 3 Alternate Randy Wastradowski, Region 4 Jared Mangum, Region 5 Dena Skinner, Region 6 Casey Mattoon, Boise CoC Mandy White, Lived Experience Patty Wheeler, Victims' Service Organization Jamie McDonald, HIV/AIDS Organization Erin Anderson, Housing Developer Tony Tenne, Dept. of Commerce Daina Drake, Dept. of Corrections Emily Kesler, Dept. of Education Miren Unsworth, Dept. H&W Rico Barrera, Dept. of Labor Anna Johnson-Whitehead, US Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Voting Members Absent	Chris Green, Region 1
Advisory Members	None at this time
Others in Attendance	Brian Dale, HUD Cassandra Artukovitch, Jesse Tree & Informing Idaho Chair Margie Potter, The Idaho Hispanic Foundation & Housing Idaho Chair Erika Switzer, Idaho Housing and Finance Association Dyne Jones, Idaho Housing and Finance Association Jamie Simpson, Idaho Housing and Finance Association Joe Hightower, Idaho Housing and Finance Association John Gibbons, Idaho Housing and Finance Association Jordan Downey, Idaho Housing and Finance Association Shane Carlton, Idaho Housing and Finance Association Shawn Walters, Idaho Housing and Finance Association Sonali Thombare, Idaho Housing and Finance Association Zena Ebed, Full Circle Health

Brady welcomed everyone and commenced the meeting at 9am. Heidi conducted board roll call.

SECTION A: Welcome New Board Members

Brady introduced himself to the new Board members as Idaho Housing and Finance Association's Community Housing Vice President and the HIC Board Chair.

Miren Unsworth replaced Jen Palagi as the Board's Department of Health and Welfare representative. Miren's bio can be found in the Board Book.

Jamie Simpson is replacing Brady Ellis as the HIC's Board Chair. The Governance Charter states the Collaborative Applicant (IHFA) selects the Board's Chair. Brady has been promoted at IHFA and will be handing the position onto Jamie. Brady hopes to attend HIC meetings when he can. Brady thanked the Board for their amazing work improving Idaho's communities. Brady then handed over the meeting to Jamie. Jamie's bio can be found in the Board Book.

Deseret Industries was recommended for mattress donations for fire-victims. Casey Mattoon is present remotely and in-person at the Capitol for the hearing of Senate Bill 1141. Brady asked the Board's preference when conflicts like this come up. The Board agreed to reschedule future meetings to support legislation and important matters affecting our HIC's work.

SECTION B: Homeless or Housing Anecdote – Mandy White

Mandy shared her opinion not reflective of the HIC, IHFA, or The Housing Company. She reported on Bills 1141 and 1166 which would criminalize campers, including people sleeping in their tents, cars, RVs, and more. Additionally, it would prevent Emergency Shelters from being built within 300' of residential areas. This would block Interfaith from building their new shelter for families, single males, and single females. Churches would also be unable to shelter people in need. Mandy shared a photo of her husband who is a 26 year-long Marine and is currently deployed in the Middle East. She shared how in 2016 their family lost their housing due to shady property management dealings and became homeless. Since there were no family shelters in Boise, they were forced to split up after trying to live in their car. The kids went to live with their mom, Mandy and her son moved out of state to her family, while her husband lived in his truck. This lasted for three years. Her husband had to stay in Boise to not jeopardize his military career. Once his truck broke down, a church let him stay in their basement while he provided over-night security. People like Mandy and her husband are the ones who Idaho would be making "criminals" by these bills. Many on the Board were moved by Mandy's story and offered their condolences.

SECTION C: Resolution 25-3-01: Approve Prior Meeting Minutes – Jamie Simpson

Minutes from December were submitted to the House Idaho Collaborative Board for approval. December Minutes can be found on pages 9-18 of the Board Book.

Motion:	Betsy Bowling
Second Motion:	Randy Wastradowski
Vote:	None opposed
Motion Approved	

Resolutions 25-3-01 was approved without changes.

SECTION D: HIC Committee Reports – HIC Committee Representatives

HIC Committee Reports were shared by Committee Representatives and can be found in the Board Book pages 19-44. Items of note from the Committee reports are as follows:

Cassandra shared Informing Idaho's recent HMIS/CMIS User Survey results. Out of 120 HMIS/CMIS users only 27 users (23%) participated in the survey. Data collection was difficult since not all clients have the necessary information. Some organizations have case managers enter data directly, while others pass information to a specific data user. Information entry and system use is easy. Complaints regarding HUD requirements were frequent; however, these are not something the HIC can change. Informing Idaho recommends using the data entry checklists to reduce missed data entry. Ask JohnG@IHFA.ORG for these checklists. They recommended attending HMIS Office Hours and complete annual required trainings online. Specific trainings may also be requested at HMIS@IHFA.ORG. System Performance Measures have been delayed by HUD.

Bud shared the Housing Committee has been struggling with turnover. They have been tracking the legislation session, particularly HB83 regarding Title 18-19, HB335 about criminally harboring illegal aliens, and SB1042a regarding rental application fee cap which did not pass. They approved the development of a subcommittee for affordable housing developers to meet to discuss best practices, services, and overcoming challenges together.

Jessica shared Engaging Idaho is editing the Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures. They are updating the process of agencies referring out. They would fill-out something like a pre-screening and refer to the appropriate agency. Only homeless or fleeing domestic violence clients should be referred to the Access Points. All other clients should go to 211 or FindHelpIdaho.org. The Access Points are evaluating a new screening model. Heidi reminded the Board of the upcoming McKinney Vento/Access Point cross-training events in April. Dates can be found on the HIC's website.

The Youth Action Board (YAB) is working on projects for both the Youth Homelessness Systems Improvement (YHSI) and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grants. They have a new onboarding packet and collaboration tool. They are working on setting their HIC/YAB governance structure and have completed 3 out of 26 milestones for the YHSI grant. The YAB will be setting the project types available for application in April. They are recruiting 21 YAB members state-wide. Any questions should be sent to NancyT@IHFA.ORG. For Ada County send interested parties here:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f60812eea3614f9896aa08634207b528>

SECTION E: HIC Grant Updates – Joe Hightower

Joe shared that 52.9% of the ESG grant has been spent at 41.7% of the year, meaning the HIC is slightly overspending. Whereas the HIC has spent 59% of the CoC grant and are at 66% of the grant year, meaning they are slightly behind on spending. IHFA is doing reallocations as needed. The CoC Planning grant supports the Lived Experience Panel (LEP), YAB, and administration costs for the HIC. The YHDP's trainings and NOFO will be released soon. A timeline of YHDP grant dates can be found on the HIC's website calendar. All other YHSI, YHDP, ESG, CoC, and Department of Education ARP-HCY Grant updates can be found on pages 45-47 in the Board Book.

SECTION F: HIC Administrative Agency Quarterly Reports – Joe Hightower & John Gibbons

Joe shared the HIC Grant (CoC and ESG) Quarterly Report which can be found in pages 48-51 in the Board Book. Highlights include Permanent Supportive Housing funds being the highest expenditure with Rapid Rehousing closely behind, the HIC's total exits from HUD programs being at 1,165 people, and "owned and rented without subsidy" being the main exit destination.

John shared the HMIS/CE Quarterly Report which can be found in the Board Book on pages 48-51. This report covers October through December of 2024. The report was updated and can be viewed according to individual Regional Coalitions or the HIC. Highlights include Emergency Shelters are serving about 600 people, with lower in the first quarter of 2025. Permanent Supportive Housing serves about 450 people with 23 more in the first quarter of 2025 than in the fourth quarter. There are 400 on the Coordinated Entry queue with the most people being on the queue under 90 days.

SECTION G: Roundtable & Regional Coalition Updates – Jamie Simpson

Regional Coalition updates for regions 1, 2, and 6 can be found in the Board Book on pages 52-57. Randy shared that Region 4's leadership will be transitioning soon. Jared in Region 5 is preparing for the Tribal Fort Hall Stand Down March 29th. Mandy shared that the LEP is looking into funding to train the LEP in advocacy and leadership. The LEP has 90% participation HIC-wide. Erin with The Housing Company shared the Alder Apartments are coming online in April and will have 15 units for formally homeless opening in the summer. Brian with HUD is available to aid the HIC.

Daina with the Department of Corrections shared they are working with Department of Health and Welfare and both CoCs in Idaho to coordinate on both the Idaho Behavioral Council Supportive Housing team and the Zero Returns to Homelessness cohort. Subcommittees were created to focus on different clientele. Daina's groups are focused on criminal system involved individuals and are working to establish data sharing agreements. Additionally, re-entry specialists are joining the Regional Coalitions. Starting in May, Star I.D. cards will be used to fly or enter federal buildings.

Emily shared the Department of Education received a letter affirming the McKinney Vento Act will remain in place despite the reduction in force. College starter kit program for any homeless high school seniors. They can apply for the kit which will have all that they need to start college (laptop, luggage) applications are due April 20th. The link is on their website.

Tony with the Department of Commerce shared they are busy with the Public Facility Application related to wastewater, water, and community centers. Community centers in Ammon, Robertson, and Rexburg have projects. There is a project for a senior center in Franklin County. CARES funding is winding down with close out June 2026. Commerce is completing the Consolidated Plan with IHFA for the next 5 years of planning funding for ESG, HOME, HTF, and CDBG.

Miren shared the Department of Health and Welfare is monitoring many bills regarding policy and planning. House Bill 245 is awaiting the Governor's signature and would extend foster care to age 23. They have been working with IHFA to utilize the Foster Youth to Independence Vouchers.

Rico shared the Department of Labor is waiting on word of federal funding. The Idaho Launch program is open through April 15th for High School seniors to apply for funding for their first year of tuition or training up to 8k dollars. They can apply here:

https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/launch?utm_source=google&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=LAUNCH2024&gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIssDRs4WZjAMVORqtBh0mtDeKEAAYASAAEqJNe_D_BwE .

Casey with Our Path Home (OPH) shared that SB1141a received a 13-2 vote with a do pass recommendation to send to the House floor for a vote. OPH is following a similar YHDP timeline as the HIC and focusing on recruiting data for cross-systems mapping. They are also looking into non-federal funding for AP based on performance. They would love to continue conversation on AP funding with the HIC soon. Overall, homelessness in Ada County has been down over the past 6 months. They have below 70 people on CE queue.

SECTION H: Funding Priorities – Shawn Walters

Shawn presented on the HIC's CoC funding. Most Access Points (APs) struggle to handle the workload with only one or two AP staff. In 2024, the HIC's APs assessed and placed 1,925 people onto the CE queue. They referred 704 of those clients from the Coordinated Entry (CE) queue to HUD housing providers, with 292 of those reported as successfully housed by the provider. Current funding is loosely based upon the number of assessments given. For the past eight years CE has not received any increase in funding. The lowest funded AP receives \$46,388 and the highest funded AP receives \$57,423. This is not enough to cover even one full-time employee. Amendments are needed every year to support APs. Erika explained that "successful referral" is dependent on the receiving program recording placement of the client into HUD housing and therefore, is not dependent on the AP. Additionally, although AP are assessed 1,925 households they are hearing from as many as ten times the people who don't qualify. Shawn offered four options to help increase the funding given to APs.

The HIC is scheduled to receive an additional 1.4M for CoC programs. The HIC usually receives an increase of 200-300k. CE funding is expected to increase \$26,895, which is one of the lower increases out of all HIC CoC-funded programs. Rico shared that the Department of Labor also received a potential increase, but they are skeptical those funds will be received. The HIC also potentially received a CE DV bonus grant of \$547,806 for training and coordinating DV agencies to provide CE services to their clients. Bonus funds are one-time projects or rolled into regular CoC projects. Each NOFO details which bonus projects CoC's can apply for.

Shawn shared the HIC's potential need for a Transitional Housing (TH)-Rapid Rehousing (RRH) joint project component with the Board. Although the HIC does have unsheltered homeless, clients stuck in TH or Emergency Shelter (ES), IHFA believes Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and RRH are better fits for these clients. The HIC's CE queue has 166 veterans which should be processed and housed through the VA. This leaves youth as the remaining population who may benefit from TH-RRH projects. However, the YHDP grant can decide to have a TH-RRH project which would meet this need. Therefore, IHFA recommends that the HIC not add a TH-RRH component to the CoC grant, but to add it to the YHDP grant. Additionally, IHFA recommends using additional CoC funding to increase AP funding.

Many board members agreed with IHFA's recommendations including Mandy, Betsy, Autumn, and Patty speaking to the need for APs to field calls and act as a community builder, first-line of

defense providing a quality first touch. Autumn also spoke to the need to hire more AP staff and better train APs and partner agencies on CE, resources available, and collaboration in the region. All advocated for a permanent increase for APs due to the intensity and burden of the job. No other known grants can meet the need for ongoing funding for APs. Regions may need to consider becoming 501c3s to help support APs. The board will have an opportunity to vote on these funding decisions. Information can be found on pages 58-68 of the Board Book.

SECTION I: LEP Recommendations 2024 – Mandy White

Mandy reviewed the *Top 5 LEP Recommendations from 2024*. She shared the importance of the HIC helping people with Lived Experience with some of these service and collaboration related goals. The top 5 recommendations were: CE/AP resource roadmap, showers & laundry, transportation, counselling, and financial literacy. Mandy also reviewed the successful changes the HIC made based upon previous LEP recommendations in 2024. Changes like removing the Quality-of-Life Assessment, offering advocacy training, and information on how to start a warming center were implemented. The Recommendations can be found on pages 69-71 of the Board Book. They will be discussed at the Annual Strategic Planning Session in June.

SECTION J: Annual Strategic Planning Session & Elections – Heidi Sellick-Diaz

Location rotation for the Annual Strategic Planning Session was supported by the Board. June will be in Boise, but future years can move around the State. Both Mandy and Charles Hale are nominees for the LEP position on the Board to be elected in April. Zena Ebed is nominated to replace Jamie McDonald as the AIDS/HIV and FQHC representative on the Board. Heidi will send a survey to gather feedback from the board on how to better implement HIC goals and provide reasonable timelines.

SECTION K: State of Homelessness in Idaho Report – Jamie Simpson

This section was skipped due to time. You can request printed copies from HeidiS@IHFA.ORG. You can also view it here: <https://www.idahohousing.com/documents/2024-homelessness-report.pdf>

Jamie thanked everyone for coming and providing hope and determination. She adjourned the meeting at 11:00am.

Action Items:

- Collaborative Applicant to prepare a proposal for increasing coordinated entry funding for the Board to vote on.
- Heidi to send out a survey to gather feedback on how to better implement HIC goals.
- Jamie to follow up with Casey Mattoon for further discussion on coordinated entry funding and performance measures.
- HIC members to consider ways their committees or regional coalitions can address the LEP recommendations at the upcoming annual strategic planning session.